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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,796	12/31/2001	Koki Tanaka	D-1221	6068
7590	10/14/2003		EXAMINER	
KANESAKA AND TAKEUCHI 1423 Powhatan Street Alexandria, VA 22314			TSAI, CAROL S W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2857	

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/029,796	TANAKA ET AL. <i>MAY</i>	
	Examiner	Art Unit	2857
	Carol S Tsai		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Publication 2002/0059030 to Otworth et al.

With respect to claims 1 and 3, Otworth et al. disclose a maintenance system for an analyzing instrument, comprising: a first computer provided in an analyzing instrument and including inspecting means for inspecting abnormality of the analyzing instrument, executing means for executing an inspection by operating the inspecting means, and first communication means connected to the first computer for sending result information obtained by executing the inspection by the executing means (see Figs. 1 and 2 and paragraphs 0104-0113), and a second computer (provided in a maintenance department side and including information storing means sequentially storing the result information sent from the first computer through a communication line and storing in advance maintenance information for solving abnormalities, searching means for searching the maintenance information corresponding to abnormality information contained in the result information sent from the first computer from the information storing means to

extract the maintenance information, and second communication means connected to the searching means for sending the maintenance information extracted by the searching means to the first computer through the communication line (see Fig. 2 and paragraphs 0114-0121, 0158, and 0199).

As to claim 2, Otworth et al. also disclose searching means refers to an abnormality occurrence frequency at a portion where the abnormality occurs from accumulated result information obtained in a past inspection of the analyzing instrument in which the abnormality is detected to thereby obtain optimum repair information (see paragraph 0151).

As to claim 4, Otworth et al. also disclose inspection result determining section for receiving the result information sent from the first computer and determining if the result information contains the abnormality, said inspection result determining section sending the result information to the storing means if there is no abnormality and to the searching means if there is the abnormality (see paragraphs 0121, 0143, and 0221).

As to claim 5, Otworth et al. also disclose access person identifying means provided in the first computer for identifying an access person, and user identifying means provided in the second computer for identifying a user (see paragraph 0094).

As to claim 6, Otworth et al. also disclose a spectrophotometer connected to the first computer for analyzing (see paragraphs 0003, 0004, and 0031).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 09/11/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that U. S. Publication 2002/0059030 to Otworth et al. is ineligible as a reference because the claimed application was filed on December 31, 2001 claiming a convention priority of Japanese patent Application No. 2001-029927 filed on February 6, 2001. The Examiner disagrees with Applicants. U. S. Publication 2002/0059030 to Otworth et al. is eligible as a reference because the publication claiming a Non-provisional or provisional application No. 60/218,583, filed on July 17, 2000, a Non-provisional or provisional application No. 60/218,584, filed on July 17, 2000, and a Non-provisional or provisional application No. 60/218,585, filed on July 17, 2000

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

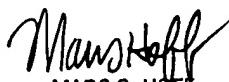
Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol S. Tsai whose telephone number is (703) 305-0851. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on (703) 308-1677. The fax number for TC 2800 is (703) 308-7382. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2800 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 2800 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office actions directly into the Group at (703) 308-7382. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into Group 2800 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

Carol S. W. Tsai

10/05/03


MARC S. HOFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800